

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (withdrawn): A method for measuring a thiol group-containing compound, which comprises the steps of:

(1) contacting a sample containing a thiol group-containing compound with a thin membrane comprising a microparticle of a metal and comprising a hydrophilic binder, and (2) detecting a color change on the thin membrane resulting from interaction of the thiol group-containing compound and the microparticle.

Claim 2. (withdrawn): A method for measuring a thiol group-containing compound, which comprises the steps of:

(1) contacting a sample containing a thiol group-containing compound with a thin membrane comprising a microparticle of a metal and comprising a hydrophilic binder and a crosslinking agent, and

(2) detecting a color change on the thin membrane resulting from interaction of the thiol group-containing compound and the microparticle.

Claim 3. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of a metal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, 3<sup>rd</sup> period, 4<sup>th</sup> period, 5<sup>th</sup> period, and 6<sup>th</sup> period of the periodic table of elements.

Claim 4. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of a metal of Group VIb, Group VIIb, Group VIII, Group Ib, Group IIb, Group VIa and Group VIIa in the periodic table of elements.

Claim 5. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 3, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, copper, and platinum.

Claim 6. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thiol group-containing compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of an alkylmercaptan, an arylmercaptan, an amino acid and a derivative thereof, a peptide compound, and a protein.

Claim 7. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the sample containing the thiol group-containing compound is a biosample isolated or collected from a mammal including a human.

Claim 8. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 7, wherein the biosample is a cancer tissue slice.

Claim 9. (currently amended): A thin membrane used for measurement of a thiol group-containing compound, which comprises a microparticle of a metal ~~metal~~ and comprises a hydrophilic binder wherein the thin membrane is dry.

Claim 10. (previously presented): The thin membrane according to claim 9 which further comprises a crosslinking agent.

Claim 11. (previously presented): The thin membrane according to claim 9 or claim 10, which generates a color change by interaction of the thiol group-containing compound and the microparticle.

Claim 12. (currently amended): The thin membrane according to claim 9, wherein said ~~microparticles have~~microparticle has a particle size of 0.001  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 13. (canceled).

Claim 14. (new): The thin membrane according to claim 9, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of a metal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, 3<sup>rd</sup> period, 4<sup>th</sup> period, 5<sup>th</sup> period, and 6<sup>th</sup> period of the periodic table of elements.

Claim 15. (new): The thin membrane according to claim 9, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of a metal of Group VIb, Group VIIb, Group VIII, Group Ib, Group IIb, Group VIa and Group VIIa in the periodic table of elements.

Claim 16. (new): The thin membrane according to claim 14, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, copper, and platinum.

Claim 17. (new): The thin membrane according to claim 9, wherein the thiol group-containing compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of an alkylmercaptan, an arylmercaptan, an amino acid and a derivative thereof, a peptide compound, and a protein.